



Regional Service Council Minutes Region # 9

Meeting Date: 4.24.08

Meeting Location: Hendricks County Department of Child Services
6781 E. US Hwy. 36 Suite #200
Avon, IN 46123

Council Members Present:

Kandi Killin - Director, Boone County GAL/CASA, Jana Minks – Supervisor, Montgomery County DCS, Tim Miller - Director, Morgan County DCS, Harmony Gist - Morgan County DCS, Stephanie Kerner – Foster Parent, and Char Burkett-Sims - DCS , Region 9 Regional Manager

Guests Present:

Kamilla Aeschliman - Director, Boone County DCS, Mark Fairchild - Community Partners for Child Safety, Lisa Plewa - Children's Bureau, Michael Scime – Montgomery County Youth Services Bureau, Patti Harmless – Putnam County Youth Development, Barbara VanDevender – National Youth Advocate Program, Garnet Holsapple – Supervisor, Morgan County DCS, Katie Chamness - Supervisor, Morgan County DCS, and Kerry Tuttle – Communities for Kids

Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 9:00 AM

Welcome, Stephanie Kerner, as a new member to the Regional Services Council:

Stephanie Kerner started in 1989 as a foster/adoptive parent. She is with Heritage Foster Adoption Support, Inc., which provides support and education to all parents who foster or adopt children from the foster care system.

Practice Reform Indicators:

Placement Type:

The goal for DCS in this area is to increase the safety of the home to allow the child to remain in the home. Where this is not possible, the goal is to place the child with a relative with whom the child is familiar.

Region 9 Averages for February 2008 is as follows:

Own Home: 34.7%
Relative: 21.1%
Foster Care: 31.82%
Residential: 8.81%

Length of Stay in Out of Home Care:

The goal of this indicator is to reduce the time a child is placed out of home. The data for this indicator is currently measured by utilizing the median placement time in care.

The average length of stay in out of home placement for Region 9 in March 2008 is as follows:

1 year	2 years	>2 years
55.82	24.5	19.66

Absence of Repeat Maltreatment:

The average rate for Region 9 for the Absence of Maltreatment is 92.65%.

The Region 9 target for this measure is 93% over a 13 month period. Morgan County has been at 100 % Absence of Maltreatment for the last 4 months.

Title IV-B Funding Proposals:

Request from Morgan County:

At the last council meeting, Morgan County had requested to transfer \$3, 824.00 from Cummins Mental Health to McConn and Associates. McConn and Associates is Morgan County's primary home based provider. The decision of this transfer was pending the discussion on where we are in Region 9 in our expenditures to date and reviewing the utilization report.

All members in attendance approved the request but there was not a quorum at this meeting. Tim will seek approval from 2 other council members. Approval is pending the receipt of additional votes.

Subsequent to the meeting, Steve Vaughn, Director of Montgomery County, and Andrea Goodwin, Director of Hendricks County, voted to support Tim's request for transfer of funds from Cummings Mental Health to McConn.

Request from Communities for Kids:

Kerry Tuttle announced that Communities for Kids is starting a new program that was started in Prevent Child Abuse New York. It is a support pledge drive with a brochure called "Promise for Parents". They have a new focus on how to let the community know about child abuse and their responsibility of sending out a positive message and be supportive of parents. This is a pilot program in Hendricks County and they hope to eventually have it statewide. They have already made 5,000 brochures and they would like to have 5,000 more. The cost for this would be \$1000. They are requesting funds for the brochures and will be using some for the "thank you notes" to send out to the supporters.

All members in attendance approved the request but there was not a quorum at this meeting. Approvals are needed from two other council members. Approval is pending the receipt of additional votes.

Subsequent to the meeting, Steve Vaughn, Director of Montgomery County, and Andrea Goodwin, Director of Hendricks County, voted to support this request.

Request from Montgomery County Probation Department:

Jana Minks presented a proposal from the Probation Department in Montgomery County for a program called the Parent Project. This program is court mandated. The program works with parents and teens that are at risk and have been involved with probation. The project was started 3 years ago in the school system from a grant for "Safe Schools, Healthy Students". It is focused on communication skills between the parent and child. The parents and child work on communications skills and it is designed to help improve the communication in the home. The cost for the class for the parents is \$50.00.

The request is for tuition to send 4 personnel to training on the program in order to become trainers for the class. The training is in California. The total cost for 4 individuals would be \$11,217.32 for tuition, airfare, hotel, per diem, and it will additionally allow for 150 adult workbooks to be purchased for the class. They are requesting a total of \$10,000.00. The Probation Department will pay the remaining costs.

It was decided that there are a lot of concerns and questions. More information is needed. Jana will contact Kalay Colley, who wrote the proposal, and invite her to the next Council meeting to answer questions and provide more details about the program.

Decision of this proposal is pending until further information can be obtained.

Request of IV-B Funding for Service Providers:

IV-B funding allocations have been set and the providers who bid have been scored and selected. By January 2009, county funding will longer exist. Long term considerations have been made in utilizing less money on home based services with what has been envisioned for Family Case Managers to be able to provide more case management / home based services to families when their caseloads are at 12/17.

There will be flexible funding available in each county for unique need of families that other service providers do not cover. Emergency services will be identified for families. This funding will only be used for intervention services. Access to this funding has not yet been determined. When IV-B funding is expended, a claim form will have to be submitted to Central Office. If accepted, the county will be reimbursed out of a Central Office account.

A proposal of IV-B allocations for providers was given to the council to review and vote for approval.

All members in attendance approved the request but there was not a quorum at this meeting. Approvals are needed from two other council members. Approval is pending the receipt of additional votes.

Subsequent to the meeting, Steve Vaughn, Director of Montgomery County, and Andrea Goodwin, Director of Hendricks County, voted to support approval of the overall IV-B plan.

General Discussions:

Community Partners for Child Safety:

Mark Fairchild reports that they have received 175 referrals. They have 6 liaisons with about 15 cases per liaison and they are planning to hire two additional staff, one for Morgan and a "float" for Boone and Montgomery counties. They should be hired by the middle of May. They have a busy summer ahead with community based activities. There will be interviews for the parent support coordinator in the next few months.

The steering committee is meeting on a quarterly basis and focusing more on success at a local level. They have also started giving an Outstanding Community Membership Award on a quarterly basis. This award is given to an individual that is recognized as someone who has gone above and beyond in providing to the community.

Books for Youth DCS/Colts:

The books are still in the collection process. We have received several donations. Jana Minks reports that she has spoken to the book publisher in Montgomery County, who is deciding how large of a donation to make. Kamilla Aeschliman has spoken to the book publisher in Boone County and they will be donating 100 books to be picked after June

4th. Kandi Killin reports that Pierson Education will also be donating, but not sure how much at this time. Kandi has also sent out a county wide e-mail. Katie Chamness from Morgan County reports that the school systems have boxes set up and have collected large amounts of books. This project is going very well. By the end of May we will stop the donations and we will then focus on planning a kick off event to present the books to foster youth in Region 9.

Training on Abusive Head Trauma:

This training will be an opportunity for communities statewide. There are not a lot of details at this time. There will be invitations sent to medical staff, law enforcement, CASAS / Guardian ad Litem's, service providers, courts, etc. This training will be directed on how head trauma isn't always identified as abuse. There will a 24 hour hotline available for consultation. There will be a discussion on how to utilize this. They will also be sharing what is indicative of abuse. The training will be conducted by Director Roberta Hibbard, or one of her colleagues, Dr. Laskey, Dr. Merck, or Dr. Harris. This will be available statewide with training throughout the regions. May 23rd is scheduled for Region 9 at the Danville Government Center. There should also be enough information provided that can be brought back to share with others who are unable to attend the training. We can also try to arrange subsequent discussions with the doctors.

Montgomery County Youth Services Bureau:

Mike Scime reports that he is still waiting to hear back about the grant for the mentoring program for teenage mothers. He is hoping to hear soon. This program will work well with Community Partners parenting program.

National Youth Advocate Program:

Barbara VanDevender reports that they are a therapeutic foster care agency. Ms. VanDevender provided packets of information on their program. She announced that she wanted to promote awareness of a good placement in Marion County. The foster parent is a DCS case manager in Marion County.

Announcement:

Lisa Plewa from Children's Bureau is leaving to pursue a new job at the Veteran's Hospital. We appreciate all that Lisa has done for our Region. Best Wishes Lisa.

Next Meeting Date: 5.30.08

Time: 9:00 PM

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Meeting concluded at 10:30 AM